

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. A Soviet officer visiting Berlin stated that the Soviets have been experiencing serious difficulties with their high tension cross-country electric transmissions. This explains various minor inquiries which have cropped up at NTO/MEZ (Scientific Technical Department of the Ministry for Power Plants) located in Berlin-Rummelsburg.
2. According to the Soviet officer, the difficulties started about a year ago on the so-called North-South line: roughly the area Sverdlovsk-Magnitogorsk, slightly west of the Ural Mountains. There thousands of kilometers of these lines literally broke down. The reasons for the breakdown seem to have been too great distances between single masts and too high wire tension. The remedy which apparently was tried was the lowering of the wires in order to diminish the tension between masts. This proved unsatisfactory because the distance from the ground was then not great enough.
3. About half a year ago, use of the entire line had to be discontinued. A German technician in the field of high-voltage power transmission believes and told Soviet officers that they would have to expect further breakdowns because the mistake in the construction of the lines would simply show later in those parts of the line which were not exposed to the very hardest weather conditions, and that undoubtedly the same accidents would happen in all parts. The Soviets are extremely disturbed about this occurrence since the reconstruction of the line is a major project and the discontinuance of the line throws the entire system west of the Ural Mountains in the industrial area completely out of gear.

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